

Anne Zahalka and the Australian Tapestry Workshop announce new tapestry collaboration



One of Australia's most highly regarded photo-media artists, Anne Zahalka, is collaborating with Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) to realise her first-ever tapestry, *Detail (from 'The Dutch Painter')*, 1991, held in the collections of the Museum of Australian Photography and Artbank Australia.

Based on a detail from Zahalka's photographic work of the same title, the new 65 x 85 cm tapestry will be handwoven by ATW weaver Tim Gresham over approximately four months at the ATW's South Melbourne weaving studio, beginning in September 2026. Gresham's specialised practice in the historic technique of hatching will inform his interpretation of Zahalka's image, translating its tonal structures, folds and material textures into the language of tapestry.

The project brings Zahalka's ongoing exploration of photographic reproduction and digital image-making into dialogue with tapestry, where the pixelated logic of the photograph is reconfigured through thread, colour and the physical structure of the weave. Moving between photographic, digital and handwoven processes, the collaboration opens up new material and visual possibilities for Zahalka's work through the medium of tapestry.

Detail (from 'The Dutch Painter'), will be presented at Melbourne Art Fair in 2027 and will be available for purchase following its completion.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing this process unfold, translating a highly mediated photographic image of analogue and digital technologies into a complex woven tapestry. While the process of constructing these two artworks is distinctly different, they share the same considerations in rendering the shapes and objects of a still-life in a two-dimensional form."

Anne Zahalka

"We're delighted to be working with Anne Zahalka on her first tapestry. Her distinctive approach to photography and image-making presents a compelling creative challenge for tapestry, and an exciting opportunity to see how her practice can push the medium in new directions. Working with contemporary artists to explore what tapestry can be is at the heart of what we do at ATW, and we're excited to see where this collaboration leads."

Sophie Travers, ATW Co-CEO

Anne Zahalka

Anne Zahalka (1957–) is an acclaimed Australian photo-media artist whose career spans four decades. Her work explores cultural and environmental points of tension, approaching them with humour and a critical perspective. Through deconstructing and re-presenting familiar scenes, her practice opens up alternative narratives around cultural diversity in Australian society and the ecological impact of the global climate crisis.

A significant figure in Australian contemporary art, Zahalka's work engages with the history and culture of this country. She has held more than 40 solo exhibitions and participated in exhibitions internationally, including at the Australian Embassy in Washington, the Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea.

In 2023, Zahalka was awarded the prestigious Bowness Photography Prize for Kunstammer. Her work continues to engage audiences and curators, opening conversations around culture, history and the environment. Zahalka is represented by **ARC ONE Gallery**, Melbourne, and **Dominik Mersch Gallery**, Sydney.

www.zahalkaworld.com.au

www.arcone.com.au

www.dominikmerschgallery.com

The Australian Tapestry Workshop

The Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) is a not-for-profit organisation that creates handwoven tapestries for public and private commissions. Working across disciplines — with painters, ceramicists, and fashion artists — its weavers represent one of the most specialised workforces in Australian craft.

ATW tapestries are held in collections across Australia and internationally — at the MCG, the Melbourne Recital Centre, the Arts Centre Melbourne, the State Library of Victoria, the Sydney Opera House, and in embassies and high commissions around the world.

www.austapestry.com.au

For more information please contact:

Michelle Sakaris
Development & Communications Officer
Australian Tapestry Workshop

T (03) 9699 7885

E contact@austapestry.com.au

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